

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 16th September, 2024
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Astley Room - Castle
Contact Geoff Durham - 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Health, Wellbeing & Environment Scrutiny Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

5 WALLEYS QUARRY ODOURS UPDATE (Pages 3 - 40)

Members: Councillors Adcock (Chair), Barker MBE, Brown, Crisp, Dymond, Northcott, Reece, Richards, Whieldon, Wilkes (Vice-Chair) and Wright

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- Where the total membership of a committee is 12 Members or less, the quorum will be 3 members....Where the total membership is more than 12 Members, the quorum will be one quarter of the total membership.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Section B5 – Rule 2 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

Substitute Members:	Bryan	D Jones
	Burnett-Faulkner	Lewis
	Edginton-Plunkett	Parker
	Fox-Hewitt	Stubbs
	Holland	J Tagg

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend on your place you need to identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

Contacting the Council:

Switchboard 01782 717717 . Text 07800 140048

Email webmaster@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk.

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S

REPORT TO CABINET

10 September 2024

Report Title: **Walleys Quarry – Odour Issues**

Submitted by: **Chief Executive**

Portfolios: **Sustainable Environment; One Council, People & Partnerships**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p>To update Cabinet on the latest position regarding the problematic odours in the Borough associated with Walleys Quarry.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <p>1. Note the contents of this update report.</p>	
<p><u>Reasons</u></p> <p>To ensure Cabinet is kept updated on the ongoing work regarding the problem odours associated with Walleys Quarry landfill.</p>	

1. Background

- 1.1 For a number of years, parts of the borough have suffered from foul odours from the Walleys Quarry Landfill Site in Silverdale operated by Walleys Quarry Ltd. The Environment Agency (EA) is the lead regulator for such sites, testing and enforcing compliance with the permit under which the site operates. The Council also has a role in influencing the operation and performance of such sites, where an operator fails to comply with actions required under an abatement notice issued by the Council in relation to any statutory nuisance caused by the site.
- 1.2 In March 2021, Council held an extraordinary meeting to receive the report of the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee review into the Walleys Quarry issues, and to debate a motion demanding the immediate suspension of operations and acceptance of waste at the Walleys Quarry Landfill site.
- 1.3 Following extensive work, officers determined that the odours from the Walleys Quarry site amounted to a Statutory Nuisance and, on 13 August 2021, served an Abatement Notice on Walleys Quarry Ltd. (WQL). Following an appeal by Walleys Quarry Ltd, and a successful mediation process, His Honour District Judge Grego approved the settlement that the parties had reached and issued a court order upholding the Abatement Notice and dismissing WQL's appeal on 6 October 2022.

- 1.4 The Council continues to assess the prevalence of odours off site. If there are further instances of statutory nuisance identified which amount to a breach of the Abatement Notice, the Council's Enforcement Policy will guide the process to be followed [Reference: [Environmental Health enforcement policy – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)]. This would determine what action the Council would take, and whether that would be formal or informal. Enforcement is usually considered sequentially but should the circumstances or nature of the breach be such, escalation direct to prosecution is possible. The Council needs to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute an offence of breaching an abatement notice, as the site is permitted by the Environment Agency. Such consent has been obtained.
- 1.5 Officers maintain an ongoing dialogue with Walleys Quarry Ltd, and with other agencies involved with the issue. Cabinet has received monthly updates on the issues relating to the odours, and Council has also been regularly updated.

2. Complaint Data

- 2.1 Below is a schedule of complaints received by the Council and by the Environment Agency from June 2024, reported on a weekly basis. Historical complaint data is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
June 2024		
03/06/24- 09/06/24	38	114
10/06/24- 16/06/24	50	147
17/06/24- 23/06/24	67	189
24/06/24- 30/06/24	117	298
July 2024		
01/07/24- 07/07/24	45	103
08/07/24-14/07/24	52	155
15/07/24 -21/07/24	118	277
22/07/24 -28/07/24	93	189
August 2024		
29/07/24- 04/08/24	61	162
05/08/24-11/08/24	53	143
12/08/24-18/08/24	50	160
19/08/24-25/08/24	58	185
26/08/24-01/09/24	7	46

- 2.2 Officers highlight any odour events where 10 or more odour complaints have been recorded.

July 2024

There have been 13 odour events in the month of July 2024:

- Monday 08 July 2024
- Friday 12 July 2024
- Wednesday 17 July 2024- Friday 19 July 2024 (3 consecutive days)

- Sunday 21 July 2024 – Wednesday 24 July 2024 (4 consecutive days)
- Saturday 27 July 2024 – Monday 29 July 2024 (3 consecutive days)
- Wednesday 31 July 2024

The highest number of complaints reported to NuLBC was on 19 July 2024 (30 complaints).

There was an upturn in complaints in July with the number of complaints above those reported in 2022 and 2023 for the same month.

August 2024

There have been 6 odour events in the month of August 2024.

- Friday 02 August 2024
- Monday 05 August 2024
- Monday 12 August 2024 - Tuesday 13 August 2024 (2 consecutive days)
- Tuesday 20 August and Wednesday 21 August (2 consecutive days)*

*An odour event occurred on 20 August which was predominantly during the evening and reported odour described as 'urine', 'sewage', 'manure' and 'toilet'. An odour event occurred the following day (21 August) with the same type of odour being reported during the day and evening.

An Officer visited the area at approx. 11:00 on 21 August and reported agricultural slurry odour at Rosemary Hill, Keele Bank and Barkers Wood Road, Keele. The wind direction was from the direction of Keele towards Newcastle town centre. The Officer deemed the odour as not related to Walleys Quarry at this time.

It is noted that the percentage exceedance above the WHO odour annoyance guideline across all 3 stations was 0% for the week 19 August – 25 August 2024.

The total number of complaints for August reported in Appendix 2 is 198 however this figure will be revised in the next Cabinet Report if Officers conclude that there was an alternative source of odour on 20 and 21 August.

2.3 The overall trend is for “spikes” in complaints when odours are prevalent.

NULBC Odour Assessments

2.4 Officers have undertaken odour assessments. The monitoring has been reactive to odour complaints and proactive where low odour dispersion is predicted.

The type of monitoring includes spot assessments (instantaneous assessments) and assessments made over a 5-minute period where the odour intensity is recorded every 10 seconds.

In July, 4 spot assessments were undertaken of which landfill odour was detected in 2 assessments both with an intensity rating of 3.

In August, 2 assessments were undertaken over 5 mins, both recording a maximum intensity rating of 4. 37 spot assessments were undertaken of which landfill odour was detected in 14 assessments with intensity ratings from 1 (slight/very weak) to 4 (strong).

NULBC Mobile Air Quality Monitoring (using Jerome monitor)

- 2.5** Officers have monitored the levels of hydrogen sulphide within the community using the mobile Jerome monitor. The highest level of hydrogen sulphide recorded in the community was 4.93ppb at Maries Way on 04 August 2024.

NULBC Actions

- 2.6** Critically, under the law, whilst odours may exist off site at levels which could be considered a breach of the notice, that breach would be unenforceable (or a defence against creating a statutory nuisance) if the operator can show that Best Practical Means (BPM) are routinely deployed in the management of the site. Whilst the existence or not of BPM can be debated, it would be a court which would determine whether BPM was in place at the time of the breach. That said, prior to entering into any formal legal action it is necessary for the Council to formulate a view with regard to this matter, this is ongoing.
- 2.7** At the core of next steps are two issues – whether the action taken by the Environment Agency as the primary enforcement agency for this site have been successful in remedying the issues; and whether a defence of BPM exists. Where either of these are assessed to be in place it would not be in the public interest for the Council to pursue this matter further.
- 2.8** On 29 July 2024 the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs responded to the Leader's request for permission to prosecute Walleys Quarry Ltd. under statutory nuisance legislation.

“I am aware of the Walleys Quarry site and the odours from hydrogen sulphide that have been occurring around the site. I visited Newcastle-under-Lyme in January this year, meeting local residents affected by the odour, and subsequently wrote to my predecessor at Defra about this situation. I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and the council for your tireless work on behalf of local residents to seek the action and answers they need and deserve”.

“In terms of the request you have made to take a prosecution, I have taken into account the information provided by the Council and I have consulted with the Environment Agency. Having considered the facts of the case and as required under s79(10) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, I am happy to grant consent for your prosecution to proceed”.

“I am keen to see a resolution to the problems around the site and know that the Environment Agency are continuing their work in relation to the site to this end”.

Scrutiny- Committee of Inquiry

- 2.9** A member-led committee of inquiry has been set up to look at the impact on local communities from the Walleys Quarry Landfill operation.

The specific lines of inquiry have been determined by Full Council and are as follows:

- What is the impact of the ongoing odour issue?
- What needs to be done next, and by whom, to bring about resolution?
- What, if any, opportunities have been missed to resolve this issue sooner?

The Committee held the first inquiry day on 24 July 2024 and considered the views of and responses to questions from:

Session 1 [Walleys Quarry Inquiry, Session 1, 23rd July 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

- NULBC - Regulatory Services
- Staffordshire County Council – Planning and Development
- Former MP Aaron Bell
- Leader of the Council Cllr Simon Tagg

Session 2 [Walleys Quarry Inquiry, Session 2, 23rd July 2024 - YouTube](#)

- Stop The Stink Cap It Off
- Stop The Stink
- Stop The Stink – Fight for Justice
- Walleys Quarry Liaison Committee Chair
- Silverdale Parish Council

Session 3 [Walleys Quarry Inquiry, Session 3, 23rd July 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

- Staffordshire County Council Director of Health and Care
- Dr Salt Health Campaigner for the community
- Dr Scott Silverdale and Ryecroft Practice

The Committee reconvened on 14 August and considered the views of and responses to questions from:

Session 4 [Walleys Quarry Inquiry, Session 4, 14th August 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

- Dr Scott Silverdale and Ryecroft Practice
- Adam Jogee MP
- Environment Agency
- UK Health Security Agency

- 2.10** The Committee will prepare an report and its recommendations will be submitted to Full Council on 25th September 2024.

Air Quality & Health

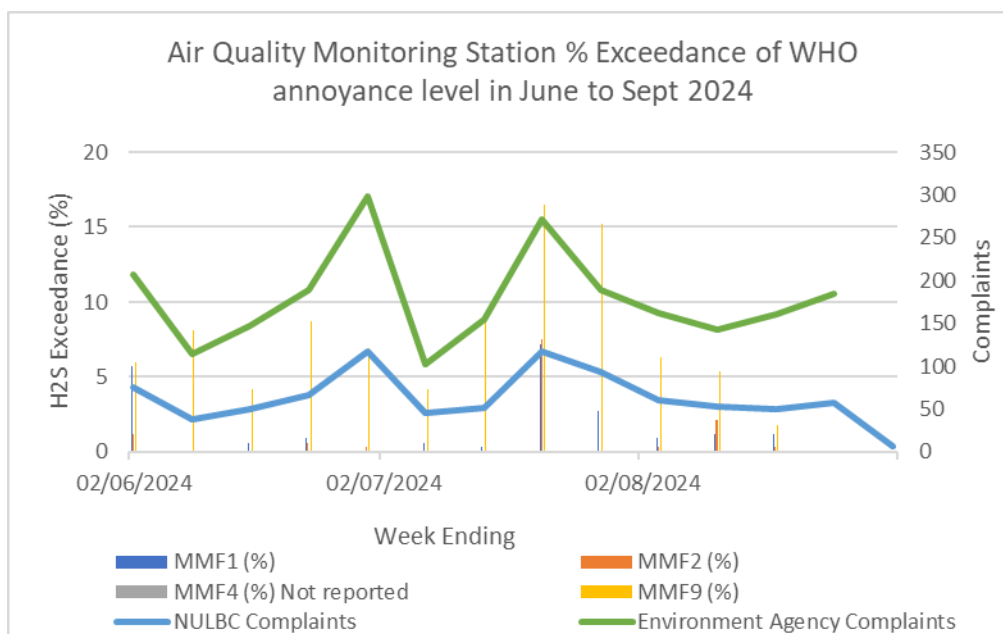
- 2.11** The Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Environment Agency have jointly funded a campaign of air quality monitoring utilising three static air monitoring stations. The Environment Agency manage and operate these air quality monitoring stations. Data from these stations has been routinely published weekly by the Environment Agency (EA).
- 2.12** Hydrogen sulphide levels have previously been reported and reviewed as part of this report and a full data set provided in Appendices. On 5 October, the Environment Agency provided an update, alerting the community to a problem with the reliability of the Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) monitoring data collected at the monitoring stations. This update is available at the following link [Latest News | Engage Environment Agency \(engagementhq.com\)](#)
- 2.13** On 19 October 2023, the EA calibrated the H₂S analysers in MMF1 and MMF2. The EA have sufficient confidence in the raw data recorded for the week commencing 16 October 2023 to allow the EA to restart publishing data from MMF1 and MMF2.

2.14 The latest H2S data is set out in the table below, defining the proportion of the time periods where H2S levels were above the WHO Odour Annoyance guideline of 7ug/m³. Historic data is available in Appendix 4.

Time Period	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	MMF 9 (%)
03 June - 09 June 2024	0.0	0.0	8.1
10 June - 16 June 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
17 June - 23 June 2024	0.9	0.6	8.7
24 June - 30 June 2024	0.0	0.3	6.9
01 July - 7 July 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
08 July - 14 July 2024	0.3	0.0	8.9
15 July - 21 July 2024	7.2	7.5	16.5
22 July - 28 July 2024	2.7	0.0	15.2
29 July - 04 August 2024	0.9	0.3	6.3
05 August – 11 August 2024	1.2	2.1	5.4
12 August – 18 August 2024	1.2	0.3	1.8
19 August – 25 August 2024	0	0	0
26 August – 01 September 2024	0	0	0.6

2.15 The weekly data for 19 August to 25 August 2024 shows 0% exceedance of the odour annoyance guideline. This is the first time since the MMF’s were recalibrated that 0% exceedance has been recorded.

2.16 The complaint data and weekly % exceedance of the WHO annoyance level have been combined and is shown on the graph below:



2.17 On 30 August 2024 the EA provided the following update on the MMF stations.

From 2 September 2024 will be referring to our Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMFs) according to their location. Adopting this change will make it clearer for members of the public and our partners where the MMFs are. It also gives us the flexibility to change

the name now that we have had to move a monitoring location and may need to do so again in the future.

The existing MMF locations will now be called:

- MMF Cemetery Road (formerly MMF 1)
- MMF Silverdale Pumping Station (formerly MMF 2)
- MMF Galingale Road (formerly MMF 9)

MMF Maries Way

In the week commencing 2 September 2024 we will be removing the MMF from the location at Cemetery Road. We will be replacing and moving it to another location 100m away. This new location will be called MMF Maries Way.

We would like to express our thanks to the owners of the Cemetery Road location who have hosted our MMF. We are relocating the MMF because it was becoming increasingly costly for the MMF to remain where it was.

The new location means that the MMF will continue to provide the same monitoring data and allow the UK Health Security Agency to provide its monthly health risk assessment.

MMF Silverdale Pumping Station

In our previous update on 13 March 2024, we explained that this MMF needed to be relocated at the beginning of September 2024 to enable Severn Trent Water Limited (STW) to carry out construction work at the location.

However, as STW's work has been delayed, the MMF will remain here for the next 2-3 months. We will continue working to identify another location for this MMF. When a new location is confirmed, we will provide an update.

MMF Galingale View

There are no changes for the MMF location at Galingale View.

H2S Data Adjustment Method

2.18 On 20 August the EA published the adjusted historic hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) monitoring data on the [Engagement HQ page](#). This page gives the (original) historic data and the adjusted historic data for all Mobile Monitoring Facilities (MMFs) around Walleys Quarry from May 2021.

2.19 The EA outlined the method used to adjust the historic data:
'We developed a methodology that would allow us to adjust the historic data. This involved using sulphur dioxide (SO₂) data that was considered to be reliable. When measuring H₂S the instrument used chemically converts H₂S into SO₂. This SO₂ data formed the basis of the recalibration of historic H₂S data.

This methodology was independently reviewed by a peer review group led by Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser. The peer review group consisted of experts from industry and academia with a range of knowledge and experience spanning instrument calibration and air quality measurement. The peer review concluded that the method we developed could be used to adjust the historic data where existing calibration slopes are available for SO₂'.

2.20 The adjustment method the EA developed involves using the historic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) calibration slopes as a surrogate for the hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) slopes. The SO₂ calibration slopes are not available for all of the instruments in the MMFs. The EA were 'not recording SO₂ calibration slopes routinely in March 2021'. This means that there are gaps in the data as the EA are 'unable to apply the adjustment method to specific data points where there is no SO₂ calibration slope available, and it is not possible to state what level of uncertainty applies'.

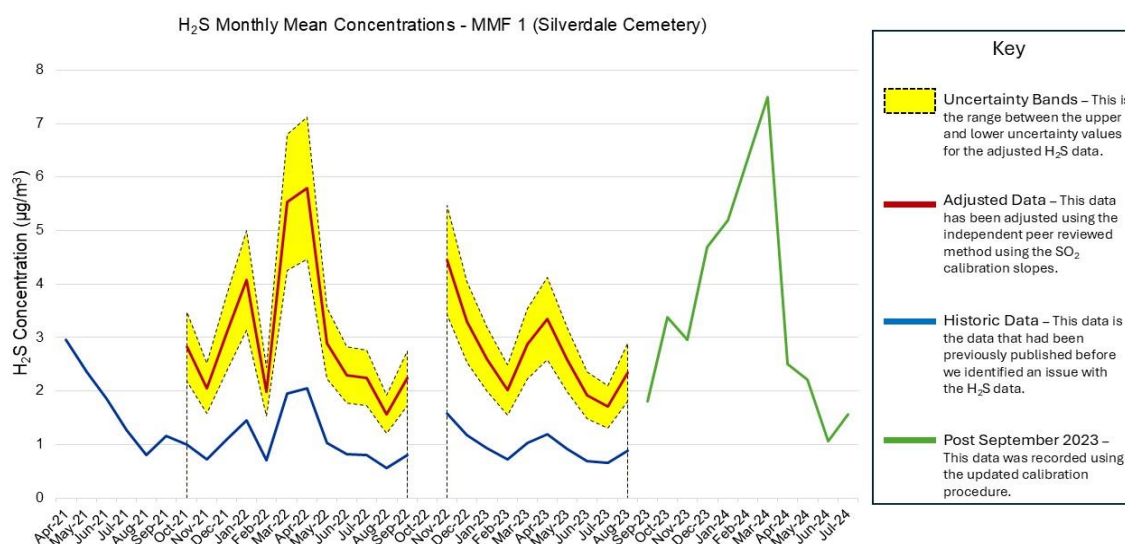
Understanding the adjusted historic data

2.21 The EA have adjusted the data sets and have shared:

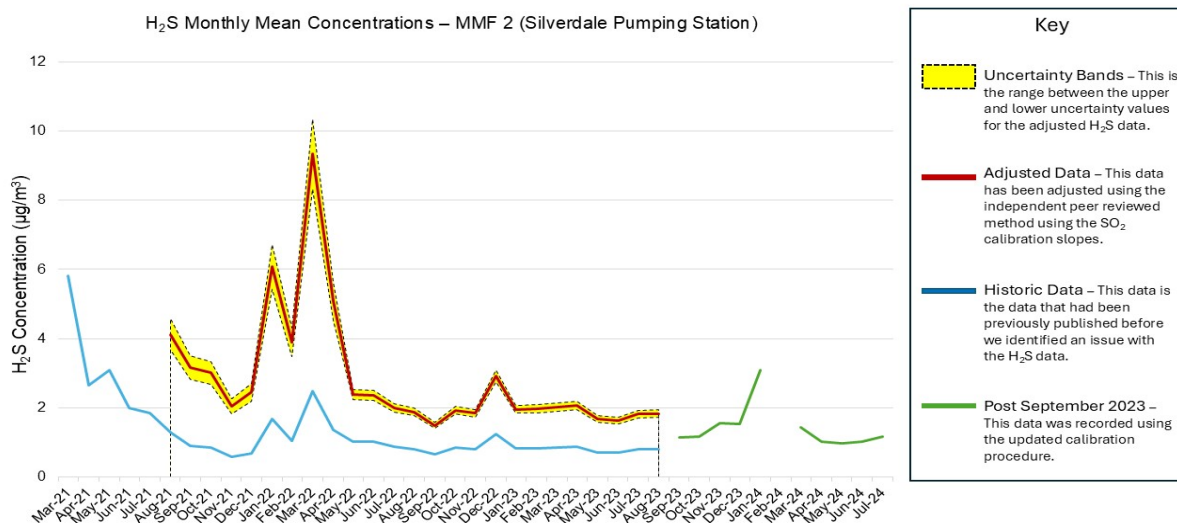
- the (original) historic data
- adjusted data and
- the associated uncertainty values (95% confidence) for the adjusted historic data.

2.22 For the full range of values recorded, please refer to the data [here](#). The EA have produced 4 charts, one for each MMF, to show the adjusted data set from 2021 to August 2023, and the data recorded using the updated calibration procedure between September 2023 and July 2024. The charts show you how the adjusted data compares to the original historic data. The links on the EA website enable you to view an enlarged version of the graphs.

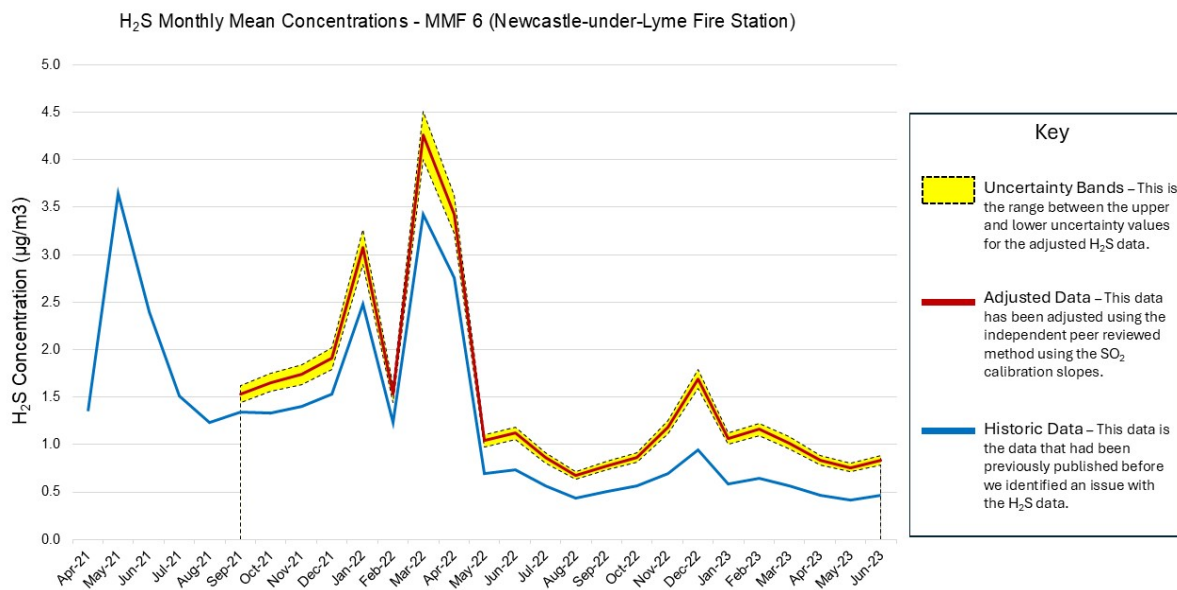
MMF 1 (Silverdale Cemetery)



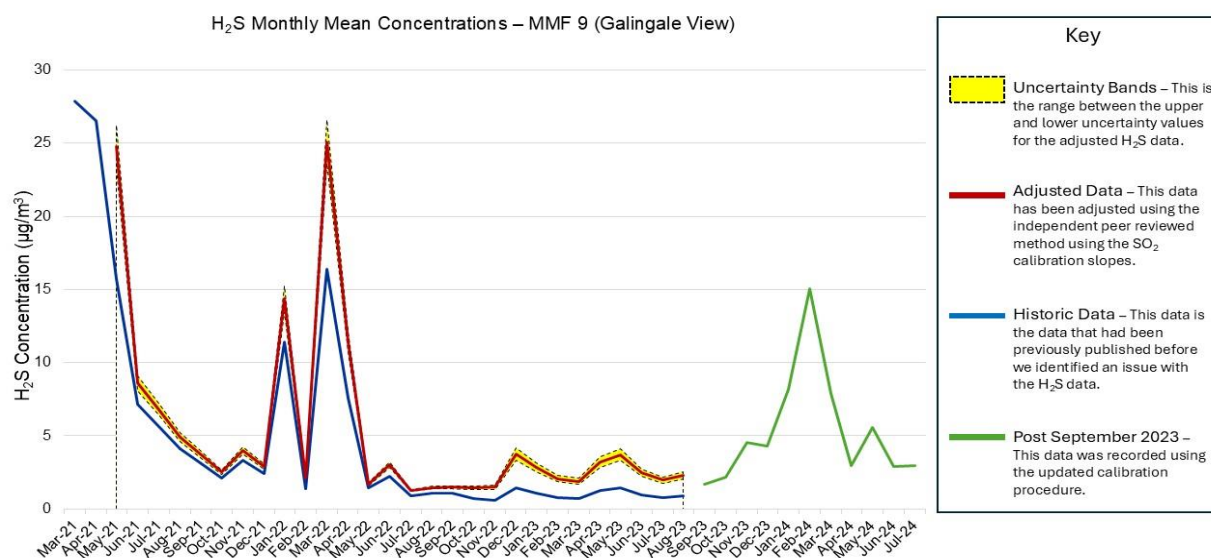
MMF 2 (Silverdale Pumping Station)



MMF 6 (Newcastle-under-Lyme Fire Station)



MMF 9 (Galingale View)



Note:

The vertical axis shows the level of H₂S Concentration in ug/m³. The range on the vertical axis varies across each station.

The Historic H₂S data (Blue Line) is displayed as monthly arithmetic means. The historic data underwent the data ratification process and was adjusted for drift and zero offset using SO₂ precision check data (based on the original calibration procedure). This line is the data that had previously been published before we identified an issue with the H₂S data.

The Adjusted H₂S data (Red Line) is displayed as monthly arithmetic means. This data has been adjusted using the independently peer reviewed method, which involves use of the available SO₂ calibration slopes.

The Uncertainty Band (Yellow Fill), is the range between the upper and lower uncertainty values for adjusted H2S data*.

The EA give an example for MMF 1 on 30 July 2022, the original value at 10:00am was 0.8, the adjusted value of this data is 2.26 with a lower uncertainty value of 1.74 and a higher uncertainty value of 2.78.

The upper dotted line shows the H2S Uncertainty upper value (95% confidence). This is the upper uncertainty percentage represented as a concentration with a confidence level of 95%.

The lower dotted line shows the H2S Uncertainty lower value (95% confidence). This is the lower uncertainty percentage represented as a concentration with a confidence level of 95%.

The green line represents H2S data recorded after September 2023 displayed as monthly arithmetic means. This data was recorded using the updated calibration procedure. It has undergone the data ratification process and has been adjusted for drift and zero offset using H2S precision check data.

** The uncertainty values are based on an hourly average at a limit value of 100 parts per billion (ppb) and an analyser range of 2000 ppb and defined oxidiser efficiency; and are displayed as monthly arithmetic means.*

Revised UKHSA Public Health Risk Assessment

- 2.23** The UK Health Security Agency provided a revised Public Health Risk Assessment, based on the adjusted historic monitoring data, which is accessible [here](#). It should be noted that the risk assessment is from March 2021 to August 2023.

The non-technical summary states:

‘The hydrogen sulphide data up to the end of August 2023 shows continuing exposure to the population around the landfill site. Over this period, the three closest MMF sites regularly exceeded the long-term (lifetime) health-based guidance value.

People living around the site are likely to experience health effects such as headache, nausea, dizziness, watery eyes, stuffy nose, irritated throat, cough or wheeze, sleep problems and stress described above. People who have health conditions that affect breathing, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), may experience increased frequency and/or severity of symptoms. The risk to long-term (lifetime) health cannot be excluded, where concentrations are above the long-term health-based guidance value. Currently this risk is likely to be small.

UKHSA strongly recommends that all appropriate measures be taken to reduce the off-site odours from the landfill site, to reduce the health impacts experienced in the local community.’

- 2.24** On 28 August 2024 the EA hosted ‘a virtual public meeting with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to answer your questions on the adjusted data and UKHSA’s risk assessment. We would like to thank you and UKHSA for attending the session. We will be publishing the transcript of the meeting next week. We will now work through the remaining questions on Slido and publish these on our Engagement HQ site soon’.

Environment Agency Regulatory and Enforcement Action

- 2.25** The Environment Agency has continued to provide updates on their regulatory activity on the Walleys Quarry Landfill and can be accessed here: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/hub-page/walleys-quarry-landfill>
- 2.26** These updates reflect regular EA officer presence at the site to review progress with the Contain Capture Destroy strategy. The Compliance Assessment Reports (published on the [EA website](#)) provide further details of the site visits undertaken.
- 2.27** The following table provides a summary of the published CAR (Compliance Assessment Report) forms since the last Cabinet report:

Date of Report	Date issued	CAR reference	Assessment	Compliance Score
20/06/24	16/07/24	DP3734DC-0511150	Site inspection – unannounced	0
18/07/24	18/07/24	DP3734DC/05111517	Report/data review – temporary capping assessment report 2024 Q1	0

Incident: Landfill Fire 04 August 2024

- 2.28** On Sunday 04 August 2024 an incident occurred at approx. 22:00. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service [SFRS], as a first responder, attended the scene and commenced actions in line with the Walleys Quarry’s fire risk assessment.
- 2.29** At 23:00, SFRS reported to the EA that an area of waste approximately 25m³ was on fire at Walleys Quarry Landfill.
- 2.30** At 23:20 NULBC were notified of the incident by the Staffordshire Civil Contingency Unit which activated the incident management response.
- 2.31** Via the NULBC incident management arrangements, provisional plans were made by the Council to open a rest centre and provide support if the incident escalated, and if residents/ businesses had to be evacuated. In the initial response there was concern for residents of a Caravan Park adjacent to the site boundary.
- 2.32** The fire was brought under control the following morning (Monday 05 August) using mains water as the source of fire water and SFRS continued to support the site by carrying out periodic inspections. Drone surveys were used to identify any hot spots to ensure that the fire was fully extinguished.
- 2.33** The EA’s Air Quality Team shared air quality information with the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA]. The advice given by UKHSA was that *‘any smoke can be an irritant, which can affect airways, eyes and skin, causing coughing, wheezing, breathlessness and chest pain. These symptoms are in line with what has been reported by residents. Substances in smoke can worsen health problems like asthma and heart conditions’*. UKHSA advised *‘if anyone is concerned for their health, they should contact NHS 111 online or get in touch with their GP’*. *‘People in areas affected by smoke should stay indoors and keep doors and windows closed. Any*

motorists who have to travel through smoke should keep windows closed and turn off air conditioning and keep air vents closed’.

2.34 EA staff were:

“involved in the immediate incident response and officers attended the site on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 August to support SFRS, assess the surrounding area and site infrastructure and discuss Walleys Quarry Ltd’s (WQL) plans following the fire. Officers made it clear that we expect WQL to install permanent capping and gas infrastructure in the affected area as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are satisfied that the fire was contained to the surface of an area of freshly deposited waste. Following assessment officers were able to confirm that the existing landfill infrastructure, including gas extraction system and capping were all unaffected by the fire. The gas extraction system continued to operate during the fire.

All water used to extinguish the fire was either contained on site or evaporated. Officers sampled local watercourses and all water quality readings including at Silverdale Brook were normal.

SFRS has confirmed that the fire has been fully extinguished and on 6 August handed the site back to WQL. SFRS is leading the investigation into the cause of the fire and will continue to inspect the site regularly over the following days”.

2.35 Walleys Quarry Limited issued an operations update on 07 August:

“Following a surface fire, which started at approximately 22:30 on Sunday 4 August 2024 Walleys Quarry landfill site has now re-opened. The fire was extinguished successfully with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service departing site on Tuesday 6 August 2024.

Waste deliveries recommenced on Wednesday 7 August 2024.

During the incident, landfill gas infrastructure and the site capping systems were unaffected, remaining intact and operational throughout. The Gas Utilisation Plant was also unaffected and remained operational throughout.

We would like to thank the efforts of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the police overnight to manage the fire, we also acknowledge that this will have been disruptive for the community around Walleys Quarry, and we apologise for this, along with thanking residents for their understanding.

An investigation has commenced to identify potential causes of the fire and review the response.

Should members of the community have any questions, please contact enquiries@walleysquarry.co.uk”

2.36 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue issued a statement on 21 August 2024 with details of their investigation:

‘A fire in a quarry in Staffordshire has been deemed accidental following an investigation.

On Sunday 4 August, a number of crews attended Walleys Quarry in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

At the height of the incident there were six engines, a water carrier and a high-volume pump being used to tackle the fire.

While it is difficult to determine the full cause of the fire, our investigation has found that it was likely caused accidentally as a result of a battery fire.

Fire Investigator, Liam Hickey said: "The rise in the number of electrical items containing lithium-ion batteries brings significant fire risk if they are discarded at waste sites instead of being recycled.

"When damaged, the batteries can be dangerous to the public, waste operators and firefighters as they cause fires that are challenging to tackle."

Lithium-ion batteries are found inside many everyday household items, including laptops, mobile phones and tablets.'

Walleys Quarry Update

2.37 On 05 September 2024 Walleys Quarry issued a statement: 'Walleys Quarry has applied to Staffordshire County Council for a pre-application meeting with its planning department. This forms part of a project Walleys Quarry is undertaking to explore options and opportunities to complete the restoration of the landfill site sustainably, making enhancements and alterations to the existing restoration plans.

This is common practice within the landfill sector as requirements for site void changes in response to market conditions and emerging restoration opportunities.

At this time there a number of opportunities being explored by Walleys Quarry, some of these will be discussed with Staffordshire County Council and Walleys Quarry is awaiting a formal pre-application response.

Technical work to support a potential planning application is being undertaken, and following feedback from statutory consultees, Walleys Quarry will share more information about the emerging proposals.

During this time the landfill site will continue to operate in accordance with its existing planning permission and environmental permit'.

Impact Study

2.38 An Impact study, commissioned jointly by a group of public bodies, including Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, the Environment Agency and UK Health Security Agency, will be carried out by the independent Arcadis Consulting and findings will be published later in the year.

Key Performance Data

2.39 Through the settlement agreement both Walleys Quarry Ltd and the Council have developed key performance indicators in relation to relevant data from each organisation. These key performance indicators are shown in Appendix 2 and 3.

2.40 The data from the Council covers the period from June 2024 to August 2024 and provides complaint numbers and officer assessments.

2.41 The data from Walleys Quarry Limited provides data on waste acceptance, odour management, landfill operations, landfill gas management, leachate management and information relating to the EA regulator as the primary regulator of the site. The KPI data and explanatory notes for June and July are uploaded as Appendix 3 (A) and (B) respectively. The data for August will be uploaded in the next report to Cabinet.

3. Proposal

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note the contents of this update report.

4. Reasons for Proposed Solution

4.1 To ensure Cabinet is kept updated of the ongoing work to address the issues associated with the odours from Walleys Quarry landfill and to keep under review opportunities to further action.

5. Options Considered

5.1 To provide regular updates to Cabinet.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is the legislation concerned with statutory nuisances in law. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance:

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 79 sets out the law in relation to statutory nuisance. This is the principal piece of legislation covering the Council's duties and responsibilities in respect of issues relating to odour nuisance.
- The relevant part of Section 79 defines a statutory nuisance as any smell or other effluvia arising on industrial, trade or business premises which is prejudicial to health or a nuisance. The Council is responsible for undertaking inspections and responding to complaints to determine whether a statutory nuisance exists.
- Where a statutory nuisance is identified or considered likely to arise or recur, section 80 of the Act requires that an abatement notice is served on those responsible for the nuisance. The abatement notice can either prohibit or restrict the nuisance and may require works to be undertaken by a specified date(s).
- It is then a criminal offence to breach the terms of the abatement notice. Because the site is regulated by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit, the council would need to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State before it is able to prosecute any offence of breaching the abatement notice.
- The Act provides powers in respect of a breach. If a person on whom an abatement notice is served, without reasonable excuse, contravenes or fails to comply with any requirement or prohibition imposed by the notice, they shall

be guilty of an offence. If this is on industrial, trade or business premises shall be liable on conviction to an unlimited fine. It is a defence that the best practicable means were used to prevent, or to counteract the effects of, the nuisance.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The work of the Council in this regard recognises that the problematic odours in the area may impact on some groups more than others. The work is focussed on minimising this impact as soon as possible.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 Dedicated officer resource has been allocated to continue the Council's work regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill.

8.2 From April 2024 there is a £300k reserve for works associated with Walleys Quarry Landfill site. Should further funding be required, up to £300k can be made available through the transfer of useable reserves (£100k from the Borough Growth Fund and £200k from the Budget and Borrowing Support Fund). These funds can be transferred without Council approval.

8.3 Should proceedings regarding the breach of the Council's Abatement Notice exceed £600k, a further report will be presented to Council in order to seek approval to utilise funds from the General Fund Reserve.

9. Major Risks

9.1 A GRACE risk assessment has been completed including the following main risks:

- Failure to achieve a reduction in odour levels;
- Community dissatisfaction at odour levels;
- The ability to take enforcement action against abatement notice;
- Failure to evidence a breach of the abatement notice;

9.2 Controls have been identified and implemented in order to control these risks; the main controls include:

- Provisions in settlement agreement ensures greater transparency for public;
- Provisions in settlement agreement ensures regular meetings with Walleys Quarry which enable issues to be discussed;
- Dedicated officer resource for Walleys Quarry work has been secured;
- Continued air quality monitoring provision;
- Robust procedure for investigating complaints with experienced officers;
- Specialist expert advice maintained;
- Multi-Agency partnership working continues.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



11. Key Decision Information

11.1 As an update report, this is not a Key Decision.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 This matter has been variously considered previously by Economy, Environment & Place Scrutiny Committee, Council and Cabinet on 21 April 2021, 9th June 2021, 7th July 2021, 21st July 2021, 8th September 2021, 13th October 2021, 3rd November 2021, 17th November, 1st December 2021, 12th January 2022, 2nd February 2022, 23rd February 2022, 23rd March 2022, 20th April 2022, 7th June 2022, 19th July 2022, 6th September 2022, 18th October 2022, 8th November 2022, 6th December 2022, 10th January 2023, 7th February 2023, 13th March 2023, 5th April 2023, 6th June 2023, 18th July 2023, 19th September 2023, 17th October 2023, 7th November 2023, 5th December 2023, 16th January 2024, 6th February 2024, 14th February 2024, 19th March 2024, 10th April 2024, 4th June 2024, and 16th July 2024.

13. List of Appendices

- 13.1 Appendix 1. Historical Complaint data
- 13.2 Appendix 2. NULBC Key Performance Data
- 13.3 Appendix 3. WQL Key Performance Data
- 13.4 Appendix 4. Percentage exceedance above WHO odour annoyance guideline

Appendix 1 – Historic Complaint Numbers

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency	Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
2022			25-Sep	14	79
09-Jan	73	352	02-Oct	13	58
16-Jan	258	1045	09-Oct	42	102
23-Jan	134	651	16-Oct	52	165
30-Jan	25	139	23-Oct	73	186
06-Feb	16	64	30-Oct	30	82
13-Feb	31	120	06-Nov	27	116
20-Feb	49	166	13-Nov	23	86
27-Feb	40	264	20-Nov	60	113
06-Mar	118	571	27-Nov	2	70
13-Mar	72	285	04-Dec	19	47
20-Mar	224	1126	11-Dec	43	163
27-Mar	412	1848	18-Dec	22	114
03-Apr	243	1072	25-Dec	12	45
10-Apr	132	895	2023		
17-Apr	156	752	01-Jan	11	39
24-Apr	65	310	08-Jan	12	32
01-May	49	213	15-Jan	13	25
08-May	39	193	22-Jan	47	118
15-May	35	160	29-Jan	51	149
21-May	43	134	05-Feb	13	66
29-May	20	81	12-Feb	26	115
05-Jun	27	169	19-Feb	7	39
12-Jun	42	234	26-Feb	3	15
19-Jun	25	263	05-Mar	7	13
26-Jun	28	208	12-Mar	12	74
02-Jul	9	54	19-Mar	23	63
09-Jul	4	34	26-Mar	19	56
16-Jul	14	72	02-Apr	51	103
23-Jul	21	52	09-Apr	45	152
30-Jul	12	93	16-Apr	11	64
06-Aug	22	124	23-Apr	48	101
13-Aug	32	133	30-Apr	148	278
21-Aug	11	79	07-May	50	150
28-Aug	12	89	14-May	53	164
04-Sep	10	30	21-May	147	320
11-Sep	9	64	28-May	90	210
18-Sep	13	83	04-Jun	24	43

Week Ending	Complaints to NuLBC	Complaints to Environment Agency
11-Jun	19	75
18-Jun	76	154
25-Jun	80	170
02-Jul	40	99
09-Jul	18	46
16-Jul	20	54
23-Jul	15	73
30-Jul	28	97
06-Aug	21	67
13-Aug	7	30
20-Aug	10	44
27-Aug	8	38
03-Sep	11	59
10-Sept	26	71
17-Sept	12	72
24-Sept	8	31
01-Oct	8	26
08-Oct	8	37
15-Oct	29	64
22-Oct	22	81
29-Oct	26	115
05-Nov	5	15
12-Nov	40	123
19-Nov	35	119
26-Nov	36	135
3-Dec	115	265
10-Dec	83	151
17-Dec	48	180
24-Dec	28	79
31-Dec	44	129
2024		
07-Jan	236	627
14-Jan	76	268
21-Jan	270	824
28-Jan	86	261
04-Feb	133	416
11-Feb	382	905
18-Feb	186	527
25-Feb	397	1264
03-Mar	333	990
10-Mar	218	694
17-Mar	103	374

24-Mar	120	330
31-Mar	81	254
07-Apr	56	220
14-April	17	75
21-April	32	145
28-April	55	196
05-May	41	167
12-May	75	311
19-May	76	192
26-May	89	240
02-June	75	207
09-June	38	114
16-June	50	147
23-June	67	189
30-June	117	298

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Appendix 2 – NUL Key Performance Indicators

NULBC		Information	Measurement	MMF	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024
KPI 1	COMPLAINTS	Complaints reported to NULBC	Number		286 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 114 Rating 0 = 2 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 3 complaints Rating 3 = 27 complaints Rating 4 = 65 complaints (22.7%) Rating 5 = 89 complaints (31.1%) Rating 6 = 99 complaints (34.6%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 225 (78.7%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 198 (69.2%)	340 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 120 Rating 0 = 3 complaints Rating 1 = 0 complaints Rating 2 = 2 complaints Rating 3 = 27 complaints Rating 4 = 79 complaints (23.2%) Rating 5 = 93 complaints (27.4%) Rating 6 = 136 complaints (40%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 269 (79.1%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 265 (77.9%)	197 Number of unique properties reporting complaints = 109 Rating 0 = 2 complaints Rating 1 = 1 complaints Rating 2 = 2 complaints Rating 3 = 15 complaints Rating 4 = 35 complaints (17.8%) Rating 5 = 54 complaints (27.4%) Rating 6 = 88 complaints (44.7%) % of complaints reporting odour entering the property = 157 (79.7%) % of complaints reporting health effects = 151 (76.6%)

KPI 2		Complaints reported (daytime 07:00-23:00)	Number		220	262	169
KPI 3		Complaints reported (night-time 23:00-07:00)	Number		66	78	28
KPI 4		Highest number of complaints during the period	Date (number of complaints)		26/06/24 (31 complaints)	19/07/24 (30 complaints)	Awaiting data
KPI 5		AIR QUALITY Percentage exceedance Odour Annoyance Guideline (Hydrogen Sulphide 30-minute average)	%	MMF1	0.7%	2.7%	Awaiting data
	MMF2			0.4%	1.8%	Awaiting data	
	MMF9			7.0%	10.6%	Awaiting data	
KPI 6		Monthly Average H ₂ S	ug/m ³ over the month	MMF1	1.1ug/m ³	1.6ug/m ³	Awaiting data
				MMF2	1.0ug/m ³	1.2ug/m ³	Awaiting data
				MMF9	2.9ug/m ³	3.0ug/m ³	Awaiting data
KPI 7	H ₂ S PEAK LEVEL	Level measured over a 5-minute period Date & Time	ug/m ³	MMF1	19.61ug/m ³	82.74ug/m ³	Awaiting data
				MMF2	11.46ug/m ³	39.06ug/m ³	Awaiting data
				MMF9	125.87ug/m ³	100.39ug/m ³	Awaiting data
KPI 8	OFFICER ASSESSMENTS	Odour Rating - Officer odour	Max Odour Rating		2 assessments – max intensity rating 4 (19/06/24)	N/A	2 assessments – max rating 4 (04/08/24)

		assessment (5 minute)					
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Date of Report: June 2024			
Landfill Operations	Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 1	WASTE ACCEPTANCE	Non-conformance raised with waste operator	CCS score(s) including summary and actions.
		No of loads inspected.	each
KPI 2			0 Non-conformance raised with operator. 0 CCS scores received
			1507 loads received. 1507 loads inspected.
Landfill Operations	Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 3	ODOUR MANAGEMENT	Non-conformance raised with waste operator	CCS score(s) including summary and actions.
KPI4		No of odour tours	
		No of odour tours where odour detected off site	
			0 Non-conformance raised with operator. 0 CCS scores received. 0 non conformances identified.
			59 tours
			17 external odours.
Landfill Operations	Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 5	ACTIVE TIPPING AREA	Operational Surface area total	m3
KPI 6	ACTIVE TIPPING AREA	Active tipping area	m3
			129,769m2
			15,925m2
Landfill Operations	Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 7	CAPPING OF OPERATION AREA	Temporary capping	m3
		Permanent capping	m3
			Temporary Capping 43,908m,2 (34%) Permanent Capping 63,091m2 (49%) Total Capped area 106,999m2 (82%)
Landfill Operations	Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 8	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Surface & Gas infrastructure emission surveys	Number of remaining matters open in the month
KPI 9	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Concentration of Hydrogen Sulphide in 'raw' bulk gas	ppm
			1,915ppm – recorded from CLP H2S GUP input data

KPI 10	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Landfill Gas capture rate (monitored at the GUP)	m3/hr	3,770 m3/hr - averaged across period
KPI 11	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Appendix A LGMP Gas Management Plan (live document)	Progress including summary and actions	See explanatory notes
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 12	LEACHATE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN	Actions (13 actions)	Progress including summary and actions	See explanatory notes.
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 13	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number undertaken for which CAR form issued to operator	One visit within the period: 20th June 2024 DP3734DC/0511150
KPI 14	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number Undertaken where a CCS score is raised with operator, including summary and actions	1 regulatory compliance assessments undertaken which resulted in a compliance assessment score – see explanatory notes.
KPI 15	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number Undertaken where no CCS score is raised with operator, including summary and actions	1 regulatory compliance assessments undertaken which resulted in 0 compliance assessment scores

Date of Explanatory Notes: June 2024

KPI 1 and KPI 2 Waste Acceptance

No non-conformances have been received from the regulator within the period.

1,507 loads inspected within the period, with 0 loads rejected.

KPI 3 and KPI 4 Odour Management

No non-conformances have been received from the regulator within the month, with one site regulatory inspections/reviews undertaken. The Agency assessments cover a wide scope of permit conditions including engineering, containment, operational activities, landfill gas management, odour and pest management.

59 odour tours conducted by WQL, with 17 reflecting odour experienced. Contemporaneously with these odour tours, checks on the gas collection and treatment infrastructure, site engineering and operations and local weather factors were reviewed to ensure all appropriate actions were being undertaken. No non-conformances were identified during these times. And all appropriate actions were being taken.

KPI 5 and 6 Active Tipping Area

The overall current landfill is 129,769 m². The active area is confined to Cell 2. The current active area remains contained and measures some 15,925 m². This is aligned with the approved capping and phasing plan, as agreed with the Environment Agency. The active operational area is progressively covered during the day to minimise the time that fresh waste remains uncovered. This is in line with best practice and our operating techniques. We retain healthy stockpiles of cover material to facilitate this progressive covering.

KPI 7 Temporary Capping

Currently, 43,908 m² of the surface area of the facility is temporarily capped, either using a high specification, low permeability engineering clay. This is in line with the capping and phasing plan for the facility, as agreed with the Environment Agency and an increase on the previous period. Maintenance works continue to clay capped areas in line with the agreed (by the Environment Agency) CQA (Construction Quality Assurance) specifications.

Permanent Capping

Relating to permanent capping, 63,091 m² of the surface area of the facility is capped, by the installation of a low permeability geomembrane. Subsequently, on completion of the permanent capping works, cover soils continue to be imported to the facility as part of the site restoration process.

KPI 8 - 10 Landfill gas management

WQL continues to undertake the extensive regime of surface emission surveys, as agreed with the Environment Agency. A, FID survey was conducted in May 2024.

The concentration of H₂S at the facility remains within expected limits and in June, averaging 1,915 ppm at the Gas Utilisation Plant (GUP), as measured by CLP Envirogas Ltd and representing a reduction on the previous period.

The volume of gas captured at the facility remains within expected limits, at 3,770m³/hr, comparable with the previous period. The flow rate has remained high and consistent across the period. WQL continue to review this position and drive the gas management contractor, CLP Envirogas Ltd, to ensure that gas collection is continually reviewed to assess relevant developments that can be made.

KPI 11 Landfill Gas Management - Landfill Gas Management Plan

The LFGMP continues to be developed by WQL and adopted by CLP Envirogas Ltd. From Appendix A of this document, three actions remain open and in progress, namely:

Site Specific Balancing Plan – this is being developed by WQL, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and CLP Envirogas Ltd. A draft has been received and is being reviewed, prior to agreement and submission to the Environment Agency.

Regular monitoring, requested by the Environment Agency of CLP Envirogas Ltd continues and is likely to remain in place.

Installation of horizontal wells in active operational areas continues as the site develops, in line with the approved LFGMP.

The LFGMP has been reviewed and issued to the Environment Agency, with comments received from the regulator on 2 June 2023 following the submission on 15 January 2023. The draft LFGMP has been discussed with NuLBC and was submitted to the Environment Agency on 14 August 2023 for approval, with further comments received 6 October. A meeting to discuss the LFGMP was undertaken on 18 October 2023 with the EA, with a further submission made 22 January 2023. Further submissions have been made through 2024, with the latest version submitted 21/7/2024. This document remains fundamentally comparable to the submission of 15 January 2024. It awaits approval from the EA.

KPI 12 Leachate Management Plan

In relation to the LMP, an addition 5 leachate wells have been successfully installed into the WQ facility. These have been installed utilising steel casing, increasing the robustness of the installed infrastructure to settlement and compaction of waste. replacement leachate wells at the facility.

A pump-trial plan, agreed to be conducted as part of the LMP submission has been undertaken and continues to be developed, in discussion with the EA.

KPI 13- 15

20th June 2024 DP3734DC/0511150

General site visit undertaken. No compliance scores received.

Off-site odour assessment undertaken, with no odours detected at the following locations :- Keele University, Maries Way, Ellams Place, Ironbridge Drive and Cemetery Rd.

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Date of Report: July 2024				
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 1	WASTE ACCEPTANCE	Non-conformance raised with waste operator	CCS score(s) including summary and actions.	0 Non-conformance raised with operator. 0 CCS scores received
KPI 2		No of loads inspected.	each	1692 loads received. 1692 loads inspected.
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 3	ODOUR MANAGEMENT	Non-conformance raised with waste operator	CCS score(s) including summary and actions.	0 Non-conformance raised with operator. 0 CCS scores received. 0 non conformances identified.
KPI4		No of odour tours No of odour tours where odour detected off site		67 tours 7 external odours.
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 5	ACTIVE TIPPING AREA	Operational Surface area total	m ³	129,769m ²
KPI 6	ACTIVE TIPPING AREA	Active tipping area	m ³	28,284m ²
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 7	CAPPING OF OPERATION AREA	Temporary capping	m ³	Temporary Capping 34,503m ² (27%)
		Permanent capping	m ³	Permanent Capping 65,388m ² (50%)
				Total Capped area 99,891m ² (77%)
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 8	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Surface & Gas infrastructure emission surveys	Number of remaining matters open in the month	0
KPI 9	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Concentration of Hydrogen Sulphide in 'raw' bulk gas	ppm	1,732 ppm – recorded from CLP H2S GUP input data

KPI 10	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Landfill Gas capture rate (monitored at the GUP)	m3/hr	3,692 m3/hr - averaged across period
KPI 11	LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT	Appendix A LGMP Gas Management Plan (live document)	Progress including summary and actions	See explanatory notes
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 12	LEACHATE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN	Actions (13 actions)	Progress including summary and actions	See explanatory notes.
Landfill Operations		Information	Measurement	Summary and Actions (Additional Document Reference as applicable)
KPI 13	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number undertaken for which CAR form issued to operator	One visit within the period: 19th July 2024 DP3734DC/0514302
KPI 14	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number Undertaken where a CCS score is raised with operator, including summary and actions	1 regulatory compliance assessments undertaken which resulted in a compliance assessment score – see explanatory notes.
KPI 15	PRIMARY REGULATOR	Compliance Assessments Visits	Number Undertaken where no CCS score is raised with operator, including summary and actions	1 regulatory compliance assessments undertaken which resulted in 0 compliance assessment scores

Date of Explanatory Notes: July 2024

KPI 1 and KPI 2 Waste Acceptance

No non-conformances have been received from the regulator within the period.

1,692 loads inspected within the period, with 0 loads rejected.

KPI 3 and KPI 4 Odour Management

No non-conformances have been received from the regulator within the month, with one site regulatory inspections/reviews undertaken. The Agency assessments cover a wide scope of permit conditions including engineering, containment, operational activities, landfill gas management, odour and pest management.

67, odour tours conducted by WQL, with 7 reflecting odours experienced. Contemporaneously with these odour tours, checks on the gas collection and treatment infrastructure, site engineering and operations and local weather factors were reviewed to ensure all appropriate actions were being undertaken. No non-conformances were identified during these times. And all appropriate actions were being taken.

KPI 5 and 6 Active Tipping Area

The overall current landfill is 129,769 m². The active area is confined to Cell 2. The current active area remains contained and measures some 28,284 m². This is aligned with the approved capping and phasing plan, as agreed with the Environment Agency. The active operational area is progressively covered during the day to minimise the time that fresh waste remains uncovered. This is in line with best practice and our operating techniques. We retain healthy stockpiles of cover material to facilitate this progressive covering.

KPI 7 Temporary Capping

Currently, 34,503 m² of the surface area of the facility is temporarily capped, either using a high specification, low permeability engineering clay. This is in line with the capping and phasing plan for the facility, as agreed with the Environment Agency and an increase on the previous period. Maintenance works continue to clay capped areas in line with the agreed (by the Environment Agency) CQA (Construction Quality Assurance) specifications. Commencing in August site will complete approximately 8,700 M³ of both temporary and permanent capping.

Permanent Capping

Relating to permanent capping, 65,388 m² of the surface area of the facility is capped, by the installation of a low permeability geomembrane. Subsequently, on completion of the permanent capping works, cover soils continue to be imported to the facility as part of the site restoration process.

KPI 8 - 10 Landfill gas management

WQL continues to undertake the extensive regime of surface emission surveys, as agreed with the Environment Agency. A, FID survey was conducted in July 2024.

The concentration of H₂S at the facility remains within expected limits and in June, averaging 1,732 ppm at the Gas Utilisation Plant (GUP), as measured by CLP Envirogas Ltd and representing a reduction on the previous period.

The volume of gas captured at the facility remains within expected limits, at 3,692m³/hr, comparable with the previous period. The flow rate has remained high and consistent across the period. WQL continue to review this position and drive the gas management contractor, CLP Envirogas Ltd, to ensure that gas collection is continually reviewed to assess relevant developments that can be made. In early August CLP are planning to drill, install and connect 3 new gas wells on site.

KPI 11 Landfill Gas Management - Landfill Gas Management Plan

The LFGMP continues to be developed by WQL and adopted by CLP Envirogas Ltd. From Appendix A of this document, three actions remain open and in progress, namely:

Site Specific Balancing Plan – this is being developed by WQL, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and CLP Envirogas Ltd. A draft has been received and is being reviewed, prior to agreement and submission to the Environment Agency.

Regular monitoring, requested by the Environment Agency of CLP Envirogas Ltd continues and is likely to remain in place.

Installation of horizontal wells in active operational areas continues as the site develops, in line with the approved LFGMP.

The LFGMP has been reviewed and issued to the Environment Agency, with comments received from the regulator on 2 June 2023 following the submission on 15 January 2023. The draft LFGMP has been discussed with NuLBC and was submitted to the Environment Agency on 14 August 2023 for approval, with further comments received 6 October. A meeting to discuss the LFGMP was undertaken on 18 October 2023 with the EA, with a further submission made 22 January 2023. Further submissions have been made through 2024, with the latest version submitted 21/7/2024. This document remains fundamentally comparable to the submission of 15 January 2024. It awaits approval from the EA.

KPI 12 Leachate Management Plan

In relation to the LMP, an addition 5 leachate wells have been successfully installed into the WQ facility. These have been installed utilising steel casing, increasing the robustness of the installed infrastructure to settlement and compaction of waste. replacement leachate wells at the facility.

A pump-trial plan, agreed to be conducted as part of the LMP submission has been undertaken and continues to be developed, in discussion with the EA.

KPI 13- 15

19th July 2024 DP3734DC/0514302

General site visit undertaken. No compliance scores received.

Off-site odour assessment undertaken, with no odours detected at the following locations :- Keele University, Maries Way, Ellams Place, Ironbridge Drive, Camillus Rd, Church View and Halfway Place.

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Time Period			
	MMF1 (%)	MMF 2 (%)	MMF 9 (%)
02 October – 08 October 2023			0
09 October – 15 October 2023			9.4
16 October – 22 October 2023	0.9	0	7.8
23 October – 29 October 2023	13.7	3.0	10.4
30 October – 5 November 2023	7.8	0.6	NR
6 November – 12 November 2023	8.9	1.5	5.6
13 November – 19 November 2023	6.9	0.6	3
20 November – 26 November 2023	3.3	2.9	14.33
27 November – 3 December 2023	14.9	7.4	26.2
4 December – 10 December 2023	21.4	3.0	10.2
11 December – 17 December 2023	13.4	2.68	8.33
18 December – 24 December 2023	0	0	0.6
25 December- 31 December 2023	23.21	0.3	1.9
01 January – 07 January 2024	16.9	8.7	17.7
08 January – 14 January 2024	0		5.0
15 January – 21 January 2024	17.4		18.4
22 January – 28 January 2024	37.8		11.6
29 January – 04 February 2024	18.6		23.4
05 February – 11 February 2024	20.8		22.6
12 February – 18 February 2024	30.8		9.6
19 February – 25 February 2024	27.4		21.1
26 February – 03 March 2024	33.7		20.1
04 March – 10 March 2024	34		13
11 March – 17 March 2024	17.0		6.0
18 March – 24 March 2024	8	1.8	4.5
25 March – 31 March 2024	37.8	1.8	2.1
01 April - 07 April 2024	15.6	1.2	5.4
08 April – 14 April 2024	10.7	0	4.8
15 April – 21 April 2024	0.9	1.2	7.9
22 April – 28 April 2024	1.8	0	6.7
29 April – 05 May 2024	2.4	0.6	9.0
06 May – 12 May 2024	6.85	0.3	14.3
13 May – 19 May 2024	3.3	0	12.2
20 May – 26 May 2024	1.8	0.6	8.6
27 May – 02 June 2024	5.7	1.2	6.0
03 June – 09 June 2024	0.0	0.0	8.1
10 June – 16 June 2024	0.6	0.0	4.2
17 June – 23 June 2024	0.9	0.6	8.7
24 June – 30 June 2024	0.0	0.3	6.9

